(c) Computerised Application Systems performing Government functions are developed, keeping different levels of security in place, as per the requirements:

(i) Physical security for the computers storing the sensitive data is in place, as prescribed by standard govt. procedures.

(ii) Only authorized users are allowed to access the data as per the permissions granted.

(iii) Steps are taken for performing penetration tests before applications being made available to the public/users.

(iv) Critical Applications have additional authentication through digital signatures through which encruption of data during transmission/ storage takes place.

(v) The data is kept in secure zones protected using state-of-art technologies, such as, firewalls, intrusion prevention system etc. and on secured servers.

(vi) Access control measures, such as, Virtual Private Network (VPN)/ Secure Socket Layer (SSL) for authenticated and secure content updation are in place.

(vii) Latest security patches for the vulnerabilities on the system and application software and applied.

(viii) Through regular application security audit and Operating System (OS) hardening procedures, the application code, the associated procedures and policies and the functional controls are checked.

Thus all possible steps are being taken to minimise the possibility of tempering and e-fraud of data on computerized systems.

Purchase of SIM cards by naxalites

157. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that naxalites have procured 400 SIM cards from Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry has been ordered into the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the findings of the inquiry and the action taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Construction of building by Department of Posts

158. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts is contemplating a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to mobilize non-tariff revenue, by commercially exploiting its surplus land, on the lines of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) or the proposed Railway Land Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) the details of plots of land acquired in the past but the Department has not been able to construct buildings and other estates lying vacant in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Department of Posts is contemplating a proposal for Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the aegis of the Department for development and management of postal estates. However, that is in a conceptual stage only and no details have been worked out.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Consultative paper on number portability

159. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has circulated **a** consultative paper on number portability;